

# BOOK LAUNCH

The Department of Religions and Cultures is delighted to welcome you to this book launch. We are extremely excited to have so many of our faculty members, both full-time and part-time as well as graduate students, participate in this event, to read and discuss elements from their books.

Thank you for joining us. We hope you enjoy the book launch.

Edited by Taylor G. Petrey. Associate Editors: **Carly Daniel-Hughes**, Benjamin H. Dunning, Anne Marie Luijendijk, and Laura S. Nasrallah

*Re-Making the World: Christianity and Categories: Essays in Honor of Karen L. King*

This book brings together important scholars of religion to reflect on the impact of Karen L. King's work on this field. Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard University, King is a path-breaking scholar in the history of early Christianity and the study of Nag Hammadi in particular. King has pushed scholars to rethink traditional narratives about early Christianity: to reckon with its diversity; its internal conflicts about the leadership of women, sin, body and martyrdom; and, above all, to render transparent scholarly and ideological investments at work in how we define ancient religions.

**Lorenzo DiTommaso**, M. Henze, and W. Adler, eds.,

*The Embroidered Bible: Studies in Biblical Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha in Honour of Michael E. Stone*. Leiden: Brill, 2018.

This *Festschrift* contains forty-seven contributions from an international collection of specialists in honour of Michael E. Stone, Gail Levin de Nur Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The volume's theme is the composition, transmission, and reception of

apocryphal and apocalyptic texts and traditions in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam from late antiquity through the Middle Ages.

A. Kulik, G. Boccaccini, **L. DiTommaso**, D. Hamidovic, and M.E. Stone, eds., *The Oxford Guide to Early Jewish Texts and Traditions in Christian Transmission*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

The Jewish culture of the Hellenistic and early Roman periods established a basis for all monotheistic religions, but its main sources were preserved through Christian transmission. This Guide is devoted to problems of preservation, reception, and transformation of Jewish texts and traditions of the Second Temple period in Christian milieus from late antiquity through the Byzantine world in the East and the mediaeval world in the West. It approaches this corpus from the perspective of the preserved materials, examined in their religious, social, and political contexts. It also considers the other, non-Christian, channels of the survival of early Jewish materials, including the Rabbinic, Manichaean, and Islamic traditions.

**Richard Foltz**

*A History of the Tajiks: Iranians of the East*

In this comprehensive and up to date history, from prehistoric proto-Indo-Iranian times to the post-Soviet period, Richard Foltz traces the complex linguistic, cultural and political history of the Tajiks, a Persian-speaking Iranian ethnic group from the modern-day Central Asian states of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan. In eight

chapters, the author explores the revitalisation of Persian culture under the Samanid Empire in the Tajik heartlands of historical Khorasan and Transoxiana; analyses the evolution of the politics of Tajik identity; and traces the history of the ethnic Tajik diaspora today.

**Richard Foltz**, Traducteur Benoit Léger

*Les Religions de la Route de la Soie: Chemins d'une globalisation prémoderne*

This book traces the spread of religions and cultures along the trans-Eurasian trade routes over a period of more than two millennia. Indian, Iranian, Semitic, and Mediterranean ideas all followed the same trajectory through Central Asia to China and beyond, picking up additional elements and sometimes being radically transformed along the way. This age-old pattern shows how the transmission of culture and the development of economic networks have always been inextricably linked, laying a precedent for the globalizing trends seen today.

**Hillary Kaell**

*Christian Globalism at Home: Child Sponsorship in the United States*

This book looks at the massive charitable industry that is Christian child sponsorship, from its growth in nineteenth-century Protestant missions to its status as one of today's most profitable private fundraising tools. Investigating two centuries of sponsorship and its related practices in American living rooms, churches, and shopping malls, Hillary Kaell examines



the myriad ways that Christians who don't travel outside of the United States have cultivated global connections, and the ethical and ideological questions involved.

**Susan J. Palmer**, Martin Geoffroy,  
Paul L. Gareau, eds.

*The Mystical Geography of Quebec:  
Catholic Schisms and New Religious  
Movements*

This study of new religious movements in Quebec focuses on nine groups—including the notoriously violent Solar Temple; the iconoclastic Temple of Priapus; and the various "Catholic" schisms, such as those led by a mystical pope; the Holy Spirit incarnate; or the reappearance of the Virgin Mary. Eleven contributing authors offer rich ethnographies and sociological insights on new spiritual groups that highlight the quintessential features of Quebec's new religions ("sectes" in the francophone media). The editors argue that Quebec provides a favorable "ecology" for alternative spirituality, and explore the influences behind this situation: the rapid decline of the Catholic Church after Vatican II; the "Quiet Revolution," a utopian faith in Science; the 1975 Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms; and an open immigration that welcomes diverse faiths.

**Norman Ravvin**

*The Girl Who Stole Everything*

The story is set in Vancouver and Radzanow, a Polish village an hour's

drive northwest of Warsaw. Ravvin's novel is about two places in flux and the secrets—particularly their hidden Jewish histories—that are brought to the surface by the churn of recent change. In Vancouver, gentrification's creep into the Downtown Eastside reveals Cordova Street's past as an Eastern European Jewish enclave, as well as a murder mystery from the 1960s. Meanwhile, post-Communist Poland is only just starting to grapple with the facts of its past, including the Holocaust. When a Second World War movie, comically earnest in its desire for historical accuracy, begins filming in Radzanow's town square, it awakes memories for those who lived through the war.

**Norman Ravvin**, co-edited with  
Krzysztof Majer, Justyna Fruzińska,  
Józef Kwatko

*Kanade, di Goldene Medine? Perspectives  
on Canadian-Jewish Literature and Culture  
/ Perspectives sur la littérature et la culture  
juives canadiennes*

*Kanade, di Goldene Medine?* highlights the fundamental link between the culture and life of Canadian Jews and their Polish roots. This focus brings Yiddish to the fore, in essays focusing on the history of Canadian Yiddish literature, and the relevance of the language for contemporary Canadian Chasidic communities. Essays in this volume also highlight the writings of contemporary authors, working both in French and English. Thus, the collection explores culture at the borderlands of

three languages, with an eye for the link between New Worlds and Old. It is bilingual, French-English, with the involvement of many Polish literary and cultural critics.

**Ira Robinson** and Pierre Ancil

*Les Juifs hassidiques de Montréal*

Montréal est traversée de diverses influences religieuses qui ne cessent de s'affirmer sur la place publique et qui soulèvent des questions primordiales de convivialité, de tolérance et de rencontre des croyances. Le phénomène est particulièrement marquant du côté des communautés non chrétiennes dites fondamentalistes qui cherchent à préserver leurs valeurs traditionnelles.

Cet ouvrage brosse un portrait inédit de cette population et de ses sous-communautés, tout en abordant la question controversée de la scolarisation des jeunes Hassidim et celle des tensions assez fréquentes qui surgissent de façon récurrente dans certains quartiers. Il s'intéresse également aux rapports soutenus, mais peu visibles, qui existent entre les Juifs hassidiques et leur environnement urbain immédiat, notamment sur les plans économiques, social et institutionnel.